



## Sharing the Love of Christ

First United Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

PO Box 37

1000 Douglas Avenue

Las Vegas New Mexico 87701

### PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

SEPTEMBER 2021

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

I was recently at an outdoor gathering during which someone commented that she could feel fall in the air. I am still trying to get a handle on the fact that it's summertime, let alone the reality that fall will soon be upon us!

You'll remember that, in spring of 2020, we hoped fall would bring an end to the COVID crisis and a return to some level of normalcy. Instead, we saw a surge in virus cases; schools opted for online education and businesses asked employees to work from home. Restaurants continued to rely on take-out business. In short, we remained shut down well into 2021.

This fall is not quite the fall we had envisioned, either. After seeing many signs that things were returning to "some level of normalcy" as restaurant restrictions were lifted and vaccinations became available, we are again seeing a surge in the number of COVID cases. In fact, the numbers of cases in San Miguel County are higher than they ever were last year. And even among vaccinated folks, we are seeing the virus (albeit usually a mild version) take hold. The surge is particularly scary among those who are unvaccinated and children under 12, who are not eligible for the vaccination.

As children prepare to return to school—in person this year for most of the country—there is real concern about what this will mean, especially for younger children who do not have the protection of the vaccine. Reports tell us that, in many cities, there are no available children's beds in the hospitals. ICUs are again filling up with people—largely unvaccinated people—struggling with COVID.

Clearly, we are not out of the woods yet. FUPC will be returning to Zoom-only worship (see related article) for the month of September. The Re-Entry Task Force will re-evaluate that decision at the end of the month to determine how to proceed.

I encourage you to once again wear those masks when you are out and about. We now know that those of us who are vaccinated can be asymptomatic but still carry the virus and pass it on to others. Take precautions; if you learn that you have been exposed to the virus, even if you have no symptoms, quarantine and get tested so that you know if you might be contagious.

Take care of yourselves and others during this continued time of uncertainty. Pray for those who face COVID diagnoses, model cautious behavior, and encourage those you know who might not yet be vaccinated to opt for the vaccine.

With thanks for all of you,  
Pastor Katie



### Perea Hall is Wired!

We are happy to announce that Perea Hall is now wired for video and sound with a video projector, automated screen and speakers. This system is connected to the main A/V system in the sanctuary, and can present the same video

and audio that we send to our Zoom participants. We expect this to be used for overflow situations when we are at capacity in the sanctuary and can have additional folks participating from Perea Hall.

In addition to overflow use, the Perea Hall system can connect to a laptop or other source to display a presentation or play a video. Assuming we arrange for licensing, we can even have movie nights one day.

## CLERGY RENEWAL GRANT



FUPC, we have cause to celebrate! On Aug. 30, we learned that we have been awarded a Clergy Renewal grant funded by the Lilly Endowment through Christian Theological Seminary! This grant will cover the costs associated with much of Pastor Katie's sabbatical next year and costs for a congregational renewal program during Katie's time away. Watch for further information soon. Right now, this news is for the congregation only; it will be officially announced later this fall.

### SLEEPLESS

By Sharon Vander Meer

You toss and turn,  
your mind flickers and burns,  
what you did right,  
what you did wrong.  
Stop and listen,  
hear the subtle song  
of whispered grace.  
Life is in the assurance  
of God's love and his peace  
that passes all understanding.  
Your troubles are best  
laid to rest  
so you can rest  
at your best.  
Trust in the Lord.

*Based on, "In peace I will lie down and sleep,  
for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in  
safety." Psalm 4:8 NIV*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### ★ ZOOMING IN SEPTEMBER ★

★ The Re-Entry Task Force recently met to discuss  
★ the safest course of action in light of the unprece-  
★ dented number of COVID cases in San Miguel  
★ County. Case numbers are higher now than they  
★ ever were last year, despite a 60 percent vaccina-  
★ tion rate in the county. Indeed, the new delta  
★ variant of the virus is infecting both vaccinated  
★ and unvaccinated people. While it's true that vac-  
★ cinated folks tend to remain asymptomatic or to  
★ have mild cases of the illness, they can pass the  
★ virus on to others. In light of these facts, the task  
★ force made the decision to **return to Zoom-only**  
★ **worship for the month of September.** At the  
★ end of the month, we will look at case numbers  
★ and other information and decide how to proceed  
★ into October.

★ As wonderful as it was to have the option to be  
★ back in the sanctuary, we believe this is the best  
★ decision to keep our vulnerable church family  
★ safe. Thank you for your understanding.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



## Class Discusses A Vital, Hopeful, Hospitable and Open Faith

The Sunday morning Bible-based class for adults and youth is discussing *A People's History of Christianity: The Other Side of the Story* by Diana Butler Bass. The class is still on Zoom and is now at 9 a.m. instead of 9:15, ending before 10:00.

From the author's web site: "For too long, the history of Christianity has been told as the triumph of orthodox doctrine imposed through power and hierarchy. In *A People's History of Christianity*, historian and religion expert Diana Butler Bass reveals an alternate history that includes a deep social ethic and far-reaching inclusivity: 'the other side of the story' is not a modern phenomenon but has always been practiced within the church. Butler Bass persuasively argues that corrective—even subversive—beliefs and practices have always been hallmarks of Christianity and are necessary to nourish communities of faith.

In the same spirit as Howard Zinn's groundbreaking work *The People's History of the United States*, Butler Bass's *A People's History of Christianity* brings to life the movements, personalities, and spiritual disciplines that have always informed and ignited Christian worship and social activism.

*A People's History of Christianity* authenticates the vital, emerging Christian movements of our time, providing the historical evidence that celebrates these movements as thoroughly Christian and faithful to the mission and message of Jesus.

The book is available used from Amazon for as little as \$3.59 hardback and \$2 paperback (plus shipping) and from other online vendors, such as Alibris.com and AbeBooks.com for competitive prices. Paper Trail may be able to get copies fairly quickly as can Richard Lindeborg.

Weekly reading assignments:

Sept. 5, No class. Labor Day Weekend

Sept. 12, Chapter 3, pp. 59-84

Sept. 19, Chapters 4 and 5, pp. 85-120

Sept. 26, Chapter 6, pp. 121-150

Oct. 3, Chapters 7 and 8, pp. 151-180

Oct. 10, Chapter 9, pp. 181-210

Oct. 17 Chapters 10 and 11, pp. 211-246

Oct. 24, Chapter 12, pp. 247-284

October 31, Chapter 13 and Epilogue, pp. 285-310

## DEVOTIONALS



You can find our weekday devotionals on the FUPC Facebook page or by clicking on the "devotionals" link under "Latest News" on our website at [lvpresbyterian.org](http://lvpresbyterian.org). These devotionals provide a short time out from the bustle of our daily activity to spend time focused on our spiritual journey.

Thank you to those who have committed to providing weekly devotionals:

Monday – Pastor Katie

Tuesday – Beth Urech

Wednesday – Rod Billingsley

Thursday – Pat Halverson

Friday – Denice Spicer



Mission & Peacemaking is excited to announce that once again our Christmas in July church family's giving to purchase a Garden Well from the PCUSA Giving Catalogue has amazed us, exceeding even last year's giving which supported a well and a quarter for communities in need of a source of fresh water. The total given this year, \$2,705, again is enough to cover a well and a sizeable portion of another well. We also wanted to update you on the recipient of the portion of the Pentecost special offering that stays here to support local at risk youth. Thanks to your generosity we were able to give \$256 to our local Big Brothers Big Sisters organization for their work with youth. Thanks to all of you who made these gifts, and made these differences in peoples' lives possible. The Peace & Global Witness special offering is coming up now in September wrapping up with World Communion Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021. We can't wait to see what you amaze us with next. Again, thanks to you all for being such a blessing to so many.

– Carol Litherland, Chair  
Mission & Peacemaking

## MEMORIES FROM MENAUL



R. E. (Rudy) Laumbach was born in Doyleville, Colorado and reared on a ranch in northeastern New Mexico. He attended Menaul School, graduating with the Class of 1949. He served in the Navy during the Korean War and earned a B.S. degree in civil engineering from New Mexico State University. He

worked for the California Department of Water Resource, retiring in 1993. He has served on the Menaul Historical Library Board for almost twenty years. He lives on the family ranch south of Las Vegas, New Mexico.

Purchased by Reverend James Menaul using funds obtained by the Presbyterian General Assembly, the campus was intended as a Boarding School for Spanish speaking boys. On January 1st, 1896, the school opened with a core of elementary school boarding students of all ages from the Presbyterian Boarding School in Las Vegas, NM.



**REMEMBER:** Coffee with Katie has moved back to Zoom because of the surge in COVID cases. Join us on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. on the regular worship link!



If you are not on the email distribution list for our Sunday Online Worship bulletin and would like to be, please send an [email](#) to the church office requesting that your name/email be added. The bulletin is emailed on Friday for the service along with a message from Pastor Katie.

August 12, 2021



Friends and supporters of the ABQYAV program,

As we welcome a new group of 3 young adults to New Mexico at the end of August, we will mark our 5th year of operation as a program, and 4th year hosting volunteers! In those 5 years, we have accompanied 15 young people through a journey of discernment and growth as they came to New Mexico, learned from local leadership, offered their skills to local partners, and built intentional community together. Through it all, we have offered opportunities for YAVs to encounter transformation--both in their interactions and work in the community, and in themselves. We are incredibly proud to have hosted these courageous young people over the past 5 years. We know as they go (and some, as they stay!) that these are transformed leaders in our churches and communities, impacted by their experience here in ways that will ripple far beyond our comprehension or belief.

The 2020-2021 program year was cancelled by the pandemic, and we have spent this time in board and administrative development, creating governing documents to guide the ABQYAV program in the years to come. Without YAVs on the ground, we felt a little disconnected from our mission, but we have continued to work towards the day when YAVs will again join us, and are so excited to welcome volunteers again this fall.

As with so many in the midst of the pandemic, our budget has taken a hit over the course of the past year. Our budget for ABQYAV is dependent on the number of YAVs that come to New Mexico, as much of our income is from our work placement partners. While we were able to build up some reserves over the first couple of years of operation, we had to dip into those reserves over the past year, and we are again eyeing a deficit for the 2021-2022 program year that will substantially impact our reserves. Despite our pride in this program, and knowledge of its transformative impact, we are uncertain what may be next for ABQYAV. However, if we can find some dedicated supporters willing to pledge a consistent yearly gift to the YAV program, we can begin to close that gap in ways that allow us to think long-term about how we move forward, regardless of the size of our YAV group any given year.

Are you willing to make a yearly gift to the YAV program, that we can count on as we look to the future of this program? In honor of our 5th year anniversary, we'd ask that you consider a yearly gift of \$5, \$50, or \$500. You can impact the future of this program forever with a yearly gift of \$1000! Many of you are already consistent supporters for whom we are so grateful. And, as we build toward a sustainable program, knowing that your gifts are coming will help us as we strive to faithfully budget and manage our gifts for the years ahead.

If you would like to [pledge](#) to the ABQYAV program, or make a donation today (either one-time, monthly, or annually), please visit [abqyav.com/donate](http://abqyav.com/donate), and select the amount and frequency of your gift. If you are making a pledge, please click on the link to our short google form that will inform us of your generous pledge!

We walk this path of faith in confidence that the Spirit walks alongside us, and in gratitude for the great cloud of witnesses that accompany us on the journey.

Peace,  
Luke M Rembold, Site Coordinator  
On behalf of the ABQYAV board





## CLERK'S CORNER

There are so many activities of the church that continue apace—the completion of sound and video installation in Perea Hall, training of the tech crew for Sunday worship, completion and training on the security system of the church and the SPOT, the work of our Samaritan House Cook Team, Sunday School with Richard Lindeborg, our Little Library in front of the church, the new and improved accounting system, Katie's always thought-provoking and moving sermons, and the upcoming training of officers, to mention a few. This month the Session is taking a much-deserved break from its usual business.

In that little hiatus, I'd like to take a moment to thank everyone for the many kindnesses you have extended to me during this time of grieving Patrick's death. Goodness, you have called, sent cards, texted, brought flowers, fruit, meals, given hugs and words of sympathy and love. I am indeed grateful for this loving, gracious church family. I feel as though I have many guardian angels surrounding me, and I thank each and every one of you.

I also want to say a word about the choirs. I was really looking forward to beginning the vocal and bell choirs this fall. However, as we watch the COVID numbers rise and the hospitals fill up, it is clear that the choirs will have to wait, yet again. Certainly, we do not want anyone to become sick because we were singing together and exchanging air! So, we'll continue to use our library of recorded choral music for worship until it is completely safe for us to gather together to sing and ring. Stay tuned for when that will be.

**Karyl Lyne, Clerk**  
**Director of Music**



## ONLINE GIVING REMINDER

If you are using our online giving process, please check the "end date" of your automatic payments. And thanks for giving so generously this year. Contact the church office if you have any questions.



## WORSHIP TIDBITS

On Sept. 12, we enter into a new lectionary year, once again following the Narrative Lectionary. Many preachers work from a lectionary—a list of Scriptures for each Sunday of the year to guide sermon-writing and worship planning. For many years, one lectionary—the Revised Common Lectionary—was THE lectionary mostly in use. But in 2010, Luther Seminary introduced the Narrative Lectionary, whose goal is to guide churches in a big sweep through the entire Bible each year in a four-year cycle, always beginning in Genesis and moving toward one of the gospels during Advent. We’ve been using this lectionary since fall 2016.

(A new lectionary has recently been introduced. Called *A Women’s Lectionary for the Whole Church*, it focuses on the stories of often-marginalized women in the Bible.)

As we move into this new year with the Narrative Lectionary, we will be paying close attention to where we find God in the world. Our “God is [T]here” theme will allow us to explore where Scripture tells us God works. Additionally, we will have an opportunity each week to think about where we see God working in our lives, our community, and the rest of the world.

Scriptures for “God is [T]here” are:

Sept. 12 – Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

Sept. 19 – Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14

Sept. 26 – Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17

Oct. 3 – Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-15; 4:10-17



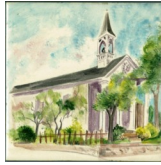
### TO JOIN ANY FUPC EVENTS VIA ZOOM



To join our online worship services, here are the instructions to access Zoom:

- The easiest way to join worship or other FUPC public events is simply to go to our website (lvpresbyterian.org) and click on the “Join Us on Zoom” link.
- You can also open your web browser and go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5739200081>. If you haven’t been on Zoom before, you’ll see instructions for downloading the Zoom app and allowing your camera (if you have one) and microphone to be used by Zoom, and then the meeting will open.
- If you are new to Zoom, we recommend going to the link above a few minutes before the event so that you can get the Zoom app set up ahead of time.
- If you don’t have a computer but want **to join by phone, call 312-626-7699** and enter the meeting ID number (573-920-0081) when prompted. Please note this is a Chicago number, so if your phone plan does not have unlimited calls, you may incur long-distance charges.
- For Zoom committee meetings and other non-public meetings, you’ll receive a link from your committee chair.

1000 Douglas Avenue  
PO Box 37  
Las Vegas NM 87701  
505-425-7763



Website: [www.lvpresbyterian.org](http://www.lvpresbyterian.org)

Facebook: Las Vegas First United Presbyterian (NM)

Email: [fupc.nm@gmail.com](mailto:fupc.nm@gmail.com)

**Sunday Schedule**

9:00 a.m. - Bible Based Study via Zoom

10:30 a.m. - Sunday Worship via Zoom

Fellowship Hour following the worship service on Zoom



**Samaritan House Food Donations**

**SEPTEMBER 2021**

Canned milk, canned vegetables  
Coffee and Tea are always appreciated



|      |                  |
|------|------------------|
| 3rd  | Chuck Peterson   |
| 13th | Ed Roe           |
| 15th | Sharon Roe       |
| 21st | Lydia Palomino   |
| 22nd | Aubrey Weinstein |
| 28th | D.R. Palmer      |
| 29th | Frank Beurskens  |